Save Foggy Bottom...It's Where We Live!

Published by the Foggy Bottom Association

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

Vol. 47. No. 2 December 21, 2005

From the Editor

A Reason For The Season

There has been a lot of talk this year about a so-called "War on Christmas," to add to the "War on [Fill in the Blank]" monikers we've become all too accustomed to in recent years. It's apparently been based on some people's perceptions that there's too much "Happy Holidays" or "Season's Greetings" – sort of a generic version of the greetings of the season. Even our neighbor Mr. Bush, a practicing Christian, came under some criticism because his card wished his friends a happy "holiday season."

I read in an Irish newspaper in 1984 that Christians adopted this time of year – a few days after the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year – as the time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They knew that those celebrating cycles of the sun had always had a big, multi-day party at this time of year, when the lengthening days first became noticeable. My friend Paul Taylor, an Anglican priest who lives in Georgetown, tells me that "Christians adopted many of the symbolisms of the German pagans in particular – the tree, the yule log, in celebrating the post-solstice birth of Jesus."

Even Thanksgiving – celebrated by all Americans, regardless of religious persuasion – has had its share of controversy. During the Great Depression, retailers beseeched President Franklin D. Roosevelt to push Thanksgiving back a week to give people more time to shop. At that time it was set as the last Thursday of November. (In that year, 1939, Thanksgiving was scheduled for Nov. 30, so there were five Thursdays that month.) FDR, eager to do what he could to get the economy moving, went ahead and pushed it back a week, though not without dispute, as 23 states refused to move it. Congress in December 1941 passed a law putting Thanksgiving where it stands now, on the fourth Thursday of November.

Despite the fact that we live in a political world, Christmas shouldn't be a political football. Just about everyone, Christian or not, is aware of how commercial forces have shaped the season. Taking the "true meaning" out of Christmas is nothing new; Charles Dickens knew it, and so did Charlie Brown. They also knew there was a way to get back to it. There are of course other holidays at this time of year – Hanukkah and the more-recent Kwanzaa, for example are also both next week – and there is a big enough "tent" for all here. We're listing the houses of worships' services below simply because they are the ones in our neighborhood. And churches are always happy to see people of all faiths at this time of year.

So whatever you believe or don't believe, celebrate or don't celebrate, this is a time to be thankful, to give to those less fortunate than ourselves and, at least the hope is, take that spirit into a new year.

– *MGM • foggybottomnews@yahoo.com*

FBA's Holiday Party a Success!

The FBA hosted a holiday party Dec. 11 at the Melrose Hotel for local residents. FBA President Joy Howell estimates that 60 to 70 people attended over the course of the two-hour get-together. It was a good chance to get out of the cold and meet our neighbors!

Monsignor Edward Filardi, pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church, greets a guest, as FBA board member Jackie Lemire (center) looks on.

Mayoral candidate Marie Johns (D) says hello to a partygoer along with her husband Wendell (right). Bill Wicker of the Tiverton is at left.

A group enjoys the festivities at the FBA's holiday party.

The Tiverton's Bill Wicker makes a point to Monsignor Filardi.

Marie Johns chats with Monsignor Filardi.

Foggy Bottom / West End Current publisher Davis Kennedy (left) chats with Wendell Johns.

All photos: FBN

Holiday Worship Services

Following is a listing of Christmas worship services and celebrations in the Foggy Bottom / West End area:

St. Mary's Episcopal Church
728 23rd Street, NW • 202-333-3985
office@stmarysfoggybottom.org
Christmas Eve – 10 p.m.
Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

St. Paul's Parish
2430 K Street, NW • 202-337-2020
info@stpauls-kst.com
www.stpauls-kst.com
Christmas Eve – 9:30 a.m., Low Mass; 11:00 p.m. Procession & Solemn Mass
Christmas Day – 8 a.m., Low Mass; 10:30 a.m. Procession & Solemn Mass

St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church
2436 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
202-785-0982
St.StephenMartyrdc@verizon.net
www.ststephenmartyrdc.com
Christmas Eve – 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Christmas Day – 9 a.m., 11 a.m. (no 5:30 p.m. mass)
New Year's Eve – 5:30 p.m.
New Year's Day – 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. (no 5:30 p.m.)

The United Church (Die Vereinigte Kirche)
1920 G Street, NW • 202-331-1495
info@theunitedchurch.org
www.theunitedchurch.org
Christmas Eve – 5 p.m. (German service); 6:45 p.m.
Christmas Day – 11 a.m.

Western Presbyterian Church
2401 Virginia Ave., NW • 202-835-8383
western@westernpresbyterian.org
www.westernpresbyterian.org
Christmas Eve – 7:15 p.m. fellowship; 8 p.m. candlelight service
Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS
c/o West End Library
24th & L Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Editor-in-Chief: Michael G. Malloy
foggybottomnews@yahoo.com

The Foggy Bottom News is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the FBN reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:
PRESIDENT – Joy Howell
VICE PRESIDENT – Barbara Spillinger
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Russsell Conlan

FBA Board of Directors:
Ellie Becker, Joseph G. Chaplick, Elizabeth B. Elliott, Edward B. Gable Jr., Jacqueline G. Lemire, Michael G. Malloy, James R. O'Leary, Ronald Cocome (Immediate Past President; *Ex Officio*)

Holiday Season Crime-Prevention Tips

Following are some holiday season crime-prevention tips, provided to Foggy Bottom / West End residents by Lt. Philip Lanciano of the Metropolitan Police Department's 2nd District. Lt. Lanciano gives regular crime and public-safety reports at FBA and Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A meetings.

Personal Safety

- Look around the area before using an ATM machine adjacent to a public street. If there are suspicious people loitering near it, use another one.
- Do not enter an enclosed ATM area when other people are inside.
- Do not enter a secure building when there are persons hanging around outside. Do not approach – call 311, MPD will respond and spot-check the individuals. By entering the building you may be placing yourself in danger; the person hanging around outside may attempt to follow you inside and victimize you or fellow tenants / residents.
- Keep your purses and wallets to yourself and keep cash / credit cards out of view of others when making purchases as best you can.

Vehicle Safety

- Lock and pocket keys.
- Keep all valuables from plain sight. People will smash your window for 75 cents in change.
- Do not keep wrapped presents / gifts or shopping bags in plain sight.
- Place items of value in your trunk – but remember and be aware that a person with criminal intent may be watching you. Check your surroundings.

General Suspicious Activity

Area community members, residents and business owners are encouraged to be alert and aware of any suspicious activity, particularly for persons checking car doors or looking in car windows – surrounded by spaces like this – or anything suspicious that catches you attention.

Do not hesitate to call 911 if necessary in emergency. Suspicious activity should be reported to the police as soon as possible, using the new 311 non-emergency telephone number. In doing so, note the person's location, direction, race / sex, clothing, height / weight and if they are carrying anything.

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Use that FBA Membership Card!

Foggy Bottom Association members receive a variety of discounts from local area merchants simply by showing our membership card! Here's a list – and stay tuned for our "Preferred Merchants Program," coming in 2006! The membership card aso allows FBA members use of GWU's Gelman Library.

FBA MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Blackie's Restaurant
1217 22nd St., NW
Tel: 333-1100 • Fax: 331-7850
50% discount on any wines offered by the glass; valid only with dinner

Chateau Florist
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 293-9005
10% off any arrangement of at least $25

Danny Diaz, Ltd. (Men's Clothing)
522 23rd St., NW
Tel: 296-2767
20% off merchandise; 10% off men's and women's alterations

Elenco Salon
504 23rd St., NW
Tel: 293-3006
$5 discount on any hair service

Expressions (Fine Clothing)
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 775-9299
15% discount

Grillfish Restaurant
1200 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 331-7310 • Fax: 331-3751
10% off food purchases (does not apply to alcohol)

Marshall's Bar & Grille
2524 L St., NW
Tel: 333-1155 • Fax: 333-4664
10% off; does not apply to any other discounts

Metropolitan Optical
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 659-6555 • Fax: 659-2134
15% off any eyewear purchase; not applicable with other offers or on contact lenses

New Hampshire Valet
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 342-5700
10% off dry cleaning, laundry, shoe repair

One Fish Two Fish
2423 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 882-0977
10% off total meal bill for dine-in and carry-out only; not available on delivery orders

Primi Piatti
2013 Eye St., NW
Tel: 223-3600 • Fax: 296-3725
10% off check

ProEuro Hair Design
2100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 887-9191
10% off haircut and style; 20% off color highlights or perm

600 Restaurant at the Watergate
600 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Tel: 337-5890 • Fax: 337-5895
10% discount after 8:00 p.m. (does not apply to bar service or alcohol)

Sizzling Express Columbia Plaza
538 23rd St., NW
Tel: 659-1234 • Fax: 659-2800
10% off hot foods, salads, sandwiches and fountain sodas (does not apply to sushi)

Thai Coast Restaurant
2514 L St., NW
Tel: 333-2460 • Fax: 333-2462
10% discount on food in restaurant (does not apply to alcohol)

Watch & Band Clinic
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Tel: 785-4552 • Fax: 785-4552
15% off leather watch bands

Watergate Gallery & Frame Design
2552 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 338-4488 • Fax: 338-4451
10% off custom framing

Watergate Photo & Copy
2560 Virginia Ave., NW
Tel: 333-7700 • Fax: 333-3083
10% discount

Watergate Valet
2546 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 337-7570
10% discount on dry cleaning and laundry

Watergate Wine and Beverage
2544 Virginia Ave., NW
(Watergate Mall)
Tel: 333-0636 • Fax: 965-2416
Wine: 10% off per case • Liquor or Water: 5% off per case

Williams The Tailor
825 21st St., NW
Tel: 822-8000
10% off general alteration and repair

The Wine Specialist
2115 M St., NW
Tel: 833-0707 • Fax: 833-9507
10% off on all non-sale items (includes single bottle / cases of wine, liquor, beer, water, soda, etc.); not valid with other sales and promotions

SAVE THE DATES!

2006 FBA General Membership Meetings:

January 30
February 27
March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26 – Annual meeting
Speakers TBA

All meetings at Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; subject to change.